

Baltimore Commission on Sustainability Meeting Report
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Date: Tuesday, June 24, 2008 at 4pm, Department of Planning Boardroom, 417 E. Fayette St.

Subject: Commission on Sustainability June General Meeting

In Attendance: *Commissioners*- Davis Bookhart, Cheryl Casciani, John Ciekot, Peter Doo, David Dunphy, Raymond Ehrlich, Lynn Heller, Brian Knight, Keith Losoya, Patrick McMahon (by phone), John Quinn, Jake Ruppert, Madeleine Shea, Ali Smith, Scot Spencer, Tom Stosur, Alyson Taylor, Mary Washington. *Staff* - Beth Strommen, Sarah Zaleski, Gary Letteron, Duncan Stuart, Kate Edwards, Brett Buikema, Elizabeth Fox, Amy Burch, Kara Hubbard. *Attendees* – Lorah Cusick Conheim, Alan Cohen, Caroline Fichtenberg, Julie Gabrielli, Helene Grady, Juan Gutierrez, Clair Broido Johnson, Kion Lathan, Kimberly Manns, Bronwyn Phillips, Michelle Rosenberg, Ted Rosenberg, Pat Tracey.

Discussion: The meeting began with introductions and an update on Sustainability Plan outreach strategies. Duncan Stuart and Gary Letteron then presented Baltimore's Critical Area Management and Forest Conservation Programs. Next the Commission's six working groups shared the draft vision statements they are developing. Lastly, the Commission discussed major themes that surfaced in the working group meetings.

Topics addressed:

- Communication Strategy
 - Kelley Ray and Lorraine Doo volunteered at the May 27th meeting to help
 - Brochures and flyers created and distributed (in both paper and electronic form) to libraries, area businesses, Mayor's outreach offices, and various other networks
 - July 17th Dixon Report dedicated to Sustainability Plan will be sent to all media outlets
 - September 17th Mayor's Night In will focus on the Sustainability Plan
 - Asking everyone to help by taking responsibility to spread the word
- Presentation
 - Critical Area Management Program - overviewed program's goals, scope, and offset projects. Suggestion was made that in the future the Commission may want to examine the offset program and suggest new standards of protection.
 - Forest Conservation Program – overviewed the program's requirements and options for compliance.
 - Other topics the Commission would like to see presented - habitat protection, BRAC, Baltimore electrical grid/trading floor, transportation with energy working group joint meetings, vacant lands, water supply system, comprehensive re-zoning, hear from the City what issues they are grappling with, regional efforts, City/County Watershed Agreement, legal challenges before the City, solid waste management plan, school system → existing programs + curriculum
- Draft Vision Statements – these statements intended to spur discussion about the types of issues we would like to address in the Plan and are neither final nor complete.
 - *Energy & Air:* We envision a future sustainable Baltimore where energy is clean, safe, reliable and used efficiently; where all residents have healthy air to breathe; where implementation creates opportunities for job creation, innovation, and economic

- growth; and where the entire community minimizes its contribution to climate change while increasing the City's preparedness for the consequences of climate changes.
 - *Built Environment*: Baltimore has a built environment that integrates and benefits people, communities, and natural systems.
 - *Green Infrastructure*: Our vision for Baltimore is to have a diverse, accessible, and connected system of parks, streets, and community open spaces, which embrace the built environment, provide habitat and support ecological processes, provide healthy, safe, comfortable and well-maintained places which engage both children and adults, and invite a sense stewardship, and provide economic opportunities for the citizens of the city.
 - *Transportation*: A multi-modal, integrated, efficient, safe, and environmentally-responsible transportation system that promotes ease of movement, access to opportunity, and public health which serves a diverse community in an equitable manner.
 - *Waste*: Baltimore will be a leader in the transformation of waste into a resource through reduction, reuse, and recycling.
 - *Water*: The larger Baltimore community will have well facilitated access to clean water for all responsible uses.
- Common Themes
 - Translation, using language that people can relate with
 - Jobs, economic opportunity
 - Using resources efficiently
 - Accessibility and equity
 - Balancing aspiration and achievability in goals
 - Nurturing community involvement and civic pride
 - Decentralization
 - Youth involvement and school curriculum
 - Education and values
 - Funding
 - Stewardship
 - Safety
 - How to change behavior
 - Conservation
 - Examining what is the need – ends not the means

To Dos:

- Working groups to discuss goals and share with the Commission on July 22nd meeting
- Working group staff to send membership email to all those who expressed interest in further committing to working groups

Upcoming Events:

- Working Group Community Conversations July 15th and 17th (for more details visit http://www.baltimorecity.gov/government/planning/sustainability/listening_sessions.php)
- Next Commission on Sustainability General Meeting – Tuesday, July 22, 4pm